

CHATTANOOGA TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 15th, 2016

Members Present: Sally Wencel, Mariah Prescott, Craig Walker, Erica Lewis, Lisa Lemza,

Members Absent: Glen Craig, Hill Craddock

Staff Present: Gene Hyde, Karna Levitt

EPB Representative: George Morgan

Guests: None

Sally called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

The February, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written.

The items on the agenda were handled in the following manner:

1. Old Business.

A. Arbor Day 2016. Gene noted that Arbor Day this year was a good event with lots of attendees including the mayors of both Chattanooga and Hamilton County. Karna reminded us that both Mayor Berke and Commissioner Mackey talked about the importance of trees and the neighborhood building opportunity associated with this event. There was not much info in the media on this event. The next day, March 5th, volunteers from the neighborhood and the VW plant installed 28 additional trees in less than two hours on a gorgeous Saturday morning.

B. If Trees Could Sing Initiative. Mariah reported that the plans for the launch event party and celebration are well underway and there are currently only two glitches. The beer permit has yet to be approved and we need to find another sponsor for \$380.00. Sally reported that Mayor Berke will put in an appearance. A subcommittee will meet to continue the planning at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 24th at Hutton and Smith on MLK Boulevard. Gene said that he hopes to have the If Trees Could Sing signs installed in Coolidge Park by April 22nd.

C. Notable Trees and Story Maps. The TC voted to remove the requirement for a tree to be at least 50 year old before it can be included onto the register. Also it was clarified that no large growing tree under power lines would be accepted. Gene said that he is working with the Nature Conservancy to finalize the Story Maps and that they would be accessible on-line for anyone with a tablet or a computer.

D. Riverview Tree Preservation and Planting Initiative.

Gene reported that he and Sally had met with the Regional Planning Agency and a group from the Riverview Neighborhood Association to discuss tree preservation for older trees that are significant within the neighborhood. The RPA will discuss options with the City Attorney's office. Gene will continue to work with that neighborhood association to assist them with their 100 tree planting campaign.

E. Presentation to City Council on February 22nd. Both Mariah and Gene thought that the presentation went well and that Gene's report was well received by City Council.

2. **New Business**

A. New TC members. Sally expressed her opinion that we should try to stick with the requirements of the Tree Ordinance and replace departed TC board members with individuals representing an Architect/Engineer and a realtor. Both Sally and Lisa will make some outreaches with their contacts in those industries with the hopes of finding some good candidates.

B. Gene said that he had met with Larry Zehnder in early March and that Larry was interested in coordinating with the TC on activities and initiatives of mutual interest.

C. Operational Report. Gene reported that all vacant spots on his three tree crews are now filled. All seems to be running well.

D. Landscape Architect's Report. Karna noted that she has been directed to focus on plans review with less emphasis on enforcement issues.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M

Action Items

A. Gene will contact City Council to see if a recorded version of the February 22nd City Council meeting is available for us to link to on the Take Root Facebook page.

B. Sally and Lisa will contact individuals to fill the vacancies in the Tree Commission.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 19th at 4:00 P.M. in the DRC Room 2-A